[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
Collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 56: Letters 551-560

[Front of Letter 551]
Lucas, G.A., Paris, Jany 18. 1875
Feb 9. 1875
Statement of a/c for the year 1874, with Vouchers.

[Letter 551 consists of 15 letters with accompanying enclosures]

[Enclosures for Letter 551 are scanned before accompanying letters]

[All enclosed letters are written in French language and not translated except for two letters from G.A. Lucas, which are transcribed]

[Letter 551 Enclosures]

[Enclosed statement showing sums disbursed by G.A. Lucas on account of The Corcoran Gallery of Art, from January 1st to December 31st 1874.]

[Enclosed memoire of purchases from Ministere De L'Instuction Publique, Des Cultes, Et Des Beaux-Arts]

[Enclosed statement of purchases from Lionnet Freres]

[Enclosed packing list from Espirat G. & S.]

[Enclosed packing list from Ancienne Maison Guillotin]

[Enclosed ledger of purchases from G.A. Lucas]

[Letter 551]

[Enclosed letter written by Cabanal]

[Enclosed letter written by G.A. Lucas, 18th January 1875]

21 Rue de l'arc de triomphe, Paris
18th January 1875

Mr. Wm T. Walters, Trustee

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to enclose you the account of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, received from Messrs Y. [?Coltinguer?] & Co., and showing a balance, in its favor, 31st Dec 1874 of 1483.40 francs.

With this, you will also please find statement of sums paid by me during the year 1874 with the receipted vouchers for said payments, with the exception of that of Barye. August 31st for 4b Bronzes, which I enclosed you when forwarding the bronzes.

I am yours most truly
G.A. Lucas

[Enclosed letter written by [LaRone?]

[Enclosed letter written by Collotte]

[Enclosed letter written by Motte]

[Enclosed letter written by Bail]

[Enclosed letter written by Desgoffe]

[Enclosed letter written by G.A. Lucas, 29th October 1874]

Paris, 29th October 1874, received, of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the sum of three thousand five hundred francs, (3500 francs), payment in full, as commission on Sundry Art purchases made by me during the year 1874.

G.A. Lucas

[Enclosed letter written by Saintpierre]

[Enclosed letter written by [Loustaunau?]]

[Enclosed letter written by Rebonet]

[Enclosed statement from Barains]

[Enclosed statement from Carpentier]

[Enclosed letter from [Prion?]]

[Enclosed envelope addressed to Mr. William T. Walters, Baltimore, MD, United States America]

[Front of Letter 552]
Neagle, G.C., Phila Mar 30/75
Mar 31/75, Apl 5/75
With regard to his pictures & the originality of the Dearborn portrait.

[Letter 552]

[The original letter pages are scanned out of order but translated in the order it should read]

No. 226 South Third St., Philad, PA, March 30/75

W.m.McLeod, Esq, Curator of “Corcoran Art Gallery”, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have been informed by my friend Edward Clark, Esq. of your City, that he has placed in the “Corcoran Art Gallery” for safe keeping, two portraits belonging to me, one of Genl. Dearborn by Gilbert Stuart, and the other an original painting of General Jackson by Thos. Sully, from a crayon sketch from life taken shortly after the battle of New Orleans. This picture has the endorsement of Mr. Sully on the back, and in his own hand writing.

Mr. Clark writes me that he has been informed by you “that the Art Committee is of the opinion that the Dearborn portrait is not an original picture by Stuart”, and if I have any means of authenticating it, to communicate the same to you. Do I understand you to infer, that it is not an original picture by Stuart - that it is only a copy by that artist of his original picture of Dearborn, or, that it is not the work of Stuart at all? If the latter, I can only say that it was the property of my father the late John Neagle, who painted the full length picture of Henry Clay now owned by Congress, who was a student under Gilbert Stuart and who painted an original portrait of that celebrated artist, an engraving from which, I had that pleasure to send you by mail a day or two since.

This portrait of Dearborn was in the possession of my father for at least thirty years previous to his death. He died in the year 1865 and since that time it has been in our immediate family. He always spoke of it as a genuine Stuart, as also did my grandfather the late Thomas Sully.

The [illegible?] is the only time that I have ever heard it said, that the Dearborn portrait was not by that artist, If I so understand you to say. I regret that I have no written authority to furnish you with in reference to it. I can only say, that it was known by both my father and my grandfather, two celebrated artists, as the work of Gilbert Stuart. The endorsement on the back of the picture is in the handwriting of my father.

I wish to dispose of both pictures and will do so at a reasonable figure. I am about to remove and will have no room for them in my new quarters.

Please let me hear from you, should you desire to purchase, at your earliest convenience - and oblige.

Yours Very truly,
Garrett C. Neagle

[Front of Letter 553]
Huffnagle, Geo. W., New Hope Bucks Co. Pa, To Mr. C. March 31. 1875
April 1/75
Has a collection of Paintings, Books etc for sale. sends Catalogue.

[Letter 553]

New Hope, Bucks County Penna., March 31 - 1875

To Corcoran, Esq, Washington City, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Having heard of your extensive, and rare collection of paintings, etc; also the interest manifested in science and art by your good self. I have taken this liberty of kindly calling your attention, and consideration, to the collection of my late Brother, who was Counsel General for [LL. &.?] to British India (Calcutta) and resided and travelled in the East for the period of 32 years.

I enclose you a catalogue of this collection, which I desire to make some disposition of - and shall be pleased to see or hear from you in reference to the same.

I am with Respect your Obedient Servant,

Geo. W. Huffnagle

[Front of Letter 554]
Neagle, G.C., Phila, Mar 9/75
(To E. Clark Esq.)
With regard to portraits by Stuart & Sully

[Letter 554]

[Letter 554 is incomplete; missing final pages]

No. 226 So. Third Street, Philada Mar. 9/75

Edward Clark, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your kind favor of the 6th inst. through Mr. B. Sears, has been received. If you have not already done so, it will not be necessary to go to the trouble of packing the two portraits, you can hang them up in your office or any other place you may think proper. The cases can be placed in your cellar until needed.

Do you know of any one who would like to purchase these pictures? I offered them both to the "Library Committee of Congress" for $400. including the neat frames. This, I thought was quite a reasonable figure, considering that one was an original portrait of

[Front of Letter 555]
Cooper W. H., Apl 6.1875
Requests stone carving. Spring Hollow Homestead be delivered to bearer.
Deliver April 6/75

[Letter 555]

Washington D.C. April 6 1875

Wm MacLeod Esq.

Dear Sir-

Please deliver to bearer the Stone carving of "Spring Hollow Homestead". With thanks for your kindness - I am Respectfully Yours.

Wm.H. Cooper
935 M St., N.W.

Wm MacLeod Esq, Curator - “Corcoran Gallery of Art”, 17th St & Penn A

[Front of Letter 556]
Callaway C.L., Charleston, W. Virginia, April 3/75
Apl 5/75, 5/75
Has an old painting for sale.

[Letter 556]

[Letter is faded. Transcription done as complete as possible]

Charleston [K? Co W.Va.]
April [illegible]

W.W. Corcoran, Esq.

Dear Sir

You will please allow me to call your attention to a [fine?] old [C?] the head of St. John the Beloved [disciple?] by Michael Angelo.

This painting was purchased by Commodore [Berry?] U.S. Navy in France and by [h?] brought to this Country & [illegible] to [illegible] [by their widow?]

Circumstances compel her to sell it all [illegible] very highly prized her [hearing?] you were [purchasing?] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] has asked me to write to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Mrs [Berry?] had her pleasure of knowing you in your young days [illegible] being a [illegible] of Georgetown, D.C.

Please be kind enough to let me hear from you.

Very Respectfully
Charles L. [Calloway?]

[Front of Letter 557]
Huffnagle, Geo W., New Hope Bucks Co Pa, April 2, 1875

Apl 5/75
With regard to a Gilbert Stuart in his collection.

[Letter 557]

New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
April 2, 1875

To
Wm MacLeod Esq
Curator of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the first inst. I have just recvd. and would kindly reply, that I have in this collection the portrait of Col Isaac Franks, painted and presented by Gilbert Stuart to Col. Franks for which I have Gilbert Stuart's Certificate.

The small portrait of Gilbert Stuart, was presented by him to my mother, the only daughter of Col. Franks, and who settled in Germantown, Pa. His services through the Revolution of 1776 - are recorded in War Office at Washington, D.C.

The paintings are in good order, and would be disposed of with the collection.

I have not had any communications from Mr. Hyde to this date, but shall be pleased to see any of you and show you this collection - hoping to hear from you soon.

I Remain Very Respectfully Yours,
Geo. W. Huffnagle

[Front of Letter 558]
Sartain, John, Phila, Apl 1875
Apl 7/75, Apl 7/75
With regard to the [Neagle?] pictures. DeJonghe's picture. Requests Catalogue and additional photographs.

[Letter 558]

Phila. April 1875, 728 Sansom St.

Dear Mr. MacLeod

Your esteemed favor of the 1st inst. was duly received and I snatch the first opportunity afforded me to acknowledge it. I have owed you a letter for a very long time but the incessant pressure on me makes me guilty of much apparent negligence of this kind.

I was intimate with [Pro.?] Neagle from Sept. 1830 until his death, and am very familiar with a picture he owned, painted (without any question) by Gilbert Stuart. I never heard him say who it was and supposed he did not know. The face is unusually dark, more especially about the lower part, causing the lights to shine out with remarkable brightness, and some of us used to call the picture, jocularly, “Stuart’s little frenchman”, on account of its peculiarity of character. Now, whether the picture you have is the one I remember, I do not know of course. I have long been trying to come to your city but engagements crowd on me in such a way that I cannot find a chance. There can scarcely be a doubt between an original and a copy of this artist, his process being peculiar produced a result that only the same method could imitate, and then but imperfectly. I wish I could see your picture and will try to come to Washington in two or three weeks.

Williams’ picture by DeJonghe may as well remain with you as long as there is no occasion to displace it from your walls, but if the latter becomes necessary please send it back to my address. If an opportunity to sell it presents, please sell it.

I shall be glad if you will send a copy of your detailed catalogue for the Academy Library, and one for my own. Also - for the Academy, any additional photos of object in your collection.

Our Academy building progresses again since the opening of Spring weather, and we still reckon on an opening exhibition next November. Outside engagements are multiplying on me so fast, leaving me almost no time for my own business, that I begin to think of hiding myself somewhere, perhaps I may run away to Paris with my work, where nobody knows me.

Yours truly In haste,
John Sartain

[Letter 559 and enclosure is scanned out of order]

[Enclosure to Letter 559]
Adams Express Company Bill of Lading

[Front of Letter 559]
Stevens, C.P., Baltimore Apl 7, 1875
Apl 8, 1875

[Letter 559]

[Letterhead of Charles P. Stevens Manufacturer, Cabinet Furniture]

Baltimore April 7, 1875

Mr. W. McLeod, Curator CG of A, Washington, DC

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find Bill of the fine Case made to your order which I trust you will receive in safety. I discovered after the Boxes left that my men left out the Cleats for the Shelves, and I sent them immediately by express (paid freight) Mr. [Hurkell?] or myself will call on you in a few days.

Very Truly Yours,
Charles P. Stevens

[Front of Letter 560]
Moran, Thomas, April 6, 1875
Announces that his new picture “The Mountain of the Holy Cross” is on exhibition at W. Schaus’, 749 Broadway.

[Letter 560]

[Letter 560 consists of the formal announcement and an accompanying description of the painting]